

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for remotely monitoring a printer status, comprising the
5 steps of:
 - selecting a printer status object from among a list of selectable printer
status objects in a remote client in data communication with a printer;
 - generating an email in the remote client;
 - writing a status request into the email in a printer management
10 language native to the printer, the status request requesting a current status of the
printer status object in the printer;
 - transmitting the email to the printer; and
 - receiving a reply email from the printer that includes the current status
of the printer status object in the printer, the current status being expressed in the
15 printer management language native to the printer.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - generating an initial email in the remote client;
 - 20 writing a request for the list of selectable printer status objects into the
initial email;
 - receiving an initial reply email from the printer, the initial reply
including the list of selectable printer status objects; and
 - parsing the initial reply email to obtain the list of selectable printer
25 status objects from the initial reply email.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the list
of selectable printer status objects from a server in data communication with the
30 remote client.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
parsing the reply email to identify the current status of the printer
status object; and
displaying the current status associated with the printer status object.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the
reply email with the current status of the printer status object.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the
list of selectable printer status objects on a display device.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the list of
selectable printer status objects on the display device further comprises the step of
displaying a name of each of the printer status objects in the printer management
language native to the printer.

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8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the list of
selectable printer status objects on the display device further comprises the steps
of:

mapping a name of each the selectable printer status objects
expressed in the printer management language native to the printer to a
corresponding user friendly name; and
displaying the corresponding user friendly name for each of the
selectable printer status objects.

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9. A method for reporting a printer status to a remote client, comprising the steps of:

receiving an email in a printer from the remote client, the email including a request for a status of a printer status object in the printer, the request

5 being expressed in a printer management language native to the printer;

parsing the email in the printer to obtain the request therefrom;

submitting the request for the status of the printer status object directly to a printer management subsystem in the printer without altering the request, the printer management subsystem maintaining a status of a plurality of
10 predefined printer status objects in the printer;

writing a current status of the printer status object provided by the printer management subsystem into a reply email; and

transmitting the reply email to the remote client.

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10. A system for remotely monitoring printer status, comprising:

a processor circuit having a processor and a memory;

a remote printer management system stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the printer monitoring system comprising:

20 logic that facilitates a selection of a printer status object from among a list of selectable printer status objects;

logic that generates an email to be transmitted to a printer;

logic that writes a request for a status of the printer status object in the printer into the email, the request being expressed in a printer
25 management language native to the printer; and

logic that transmits the email to the printer to receive a reply email from the printer that includes the current status of the printer status object in the printer.

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11. The system of claim 10, wherein the remote printer management system further comprises:

logic that generates an initial email to be transmitted to the printer;

5 logic that writes a request for the list of selectable printer status objects into the initial email; and

logic that parses an initial reply email received from the printer to identify the list of selectable printer status objects included in the initial reply email.

10 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the remote printer management system further comprises logic that requests the list of selectable printer status objects from a server through a network.

15 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the remote printer management system further comprises:

logic that parses the reply email to identify the current status of the printer status object included therein; and

20 logic that displays the current status associated with the printer status object.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the remote printer management system further comprises logic that displays the list of selectable printer status objects on a display device by displaying a name of each of the printer status
25 objects in the printer management language native to the printer.

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15. The system of claim 10, wherein the remote printer management system further comprises logic that displays the list of selectable printer status objects on a display device by:

mapping a name of each the selectable printer status objects
5 expressed in the printer management language native to the printer to a corresponding user friendly name; and
displaying the corresponding user friendly name for each of the selectable printer status objects.

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16. A program stored in a computer-readable medium for remotely monitoring printer status, comprising:

code that facilitates a selection of a printer status object from among a list of selectable printer status objects specified in a management information base
15 (MIB) applicable to a printer;

code that generates an email to be transmitted to the printer;
code that writes a request for a status of the printer status object in the printer into the email, the request being expressed in a printer management language native to the printer; and

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code that transmits the email to the printer to receive a reply email from the printer that includes the current status of the printer status object in the printer.

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17. The program stored in a computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:

code that generates an initial email to be transmitted to the printer;
code that writes a request for the list of selectable printer status objects into the initial email; and

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code that parses an initial reply email received from the printer to identify the list of selectable printer status objects included in the initial reply email.

18. The program stored in a computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising code that requests the list of selectable printer status objects from a server through a network.

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19. The program stored in a computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:

code that parses the reply email to identify the current status of the printer status object included therein; and

10 code that displays the current status associated with the printer status object.

20. A system for remotely monitoring printer status, comprising:

15 means for facilitating a selection of a printer status object from among a list of selectable printer status objects specified in a management information base (MIB) applicable to a printer;

means for generating an email to be transmitted to the printer;

20 means for writing a request for a status of the printer status object in the printer into the email, the request being expressed in a printer management language native to the printer; and

means for transmitting the email to the printer to receive a reply email from the printer that includes the current status of the printer status object in the printer.

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21. A method for remotely monitoring a printer status, comprising the steps of:

selecting a printer status object from among a list of selectable printer status objects in a remote client in data communication with a printer;

5 generating an email in the remote client;

writing a command to manipulate a configuration of the printer into the email in a printer management language native to the printer;

transmitting the email to the printer; and

10 receiving a reply email from the printer that acknowledges a modification of the configuration of the printer in response to the command.